

A couple of years ago we jumped to using the unlicensed 5.8 GHz for our county wide high speed internet system in a very rural area of Montana. The idea of not having to wait for licenses for 2 or 3 years sounded perfect at the time. The resultant project worked really well the first year and was practically maintenance free. However, 2 years later as other nearby towns did the same thing the problems with interference began. It is now a high maintenance endeavor as the noise background increased.

We are constantly trying to move internet receivers to eliminate interference. I have learned first hand the importance of licensed or controlled services. If it's unregulated, users will implement services, invest in equipment and later wind up with unusable service.